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Civilian Employees and Parole Officers Honored for Outstanding Achievement

TRENTON – Employees, officers and a partner of the NJ State Parole Board (SPB) received awards today for outstanding achievement.

The honors to both law-enforcement and civilian employees of the SPB were presented in an annual ceremony hosted by Board Chairman James T. Plousis, based on nominations from the award winners' peers or supervisors.

"It's an honor for all of us at the SPB to honor our co-workers, whose outstanding efforts reflect the dedication and professionalization of everyone who works at the Board," Plousis said.

Awards were given for excellence to employees and supervisors statewide as well as other honors including the Chairman's Award for Valor to Senior Parole Officer (SrPO) Liborio Ortega and Parole Sgt. David Brooks, and Parole Officer of the Year to SrPO Robert Wall.

Sgt. Brooks and SrPO Ortega were cited for their bravery in their Oct. 23, 2015, arrest of a man armed with a handgun and 32-round magazine in Camden. The seized weapon was later tied to three shootings.

SrPO Wall was awarded for his work the Gang Supervision Unit of the SPB's Special Operation Group. In April, Wall and other officers recovered a loaded handgun, almost 1,700 bags of heroin and more than \$5,500 in cash. The arrest led to federal indictments of one of the state's largest and most successful heroin distribution networks.

Other recipients include:

Partnership Award:

Cathedral Kitchen, Camden, N.J. Serving more than 100,000 meals a year, the Cathedral Kitchen is the largest emergency food provider in Camden, and operates its Culinary Arts and Baking Arts Training Programs for unemployed and low-income students twice per year.

Mary A. Hunt Memorial Award:

Associate SPB Member Norman Robertson, Ringwood, retired.

Outstanding Performance Award:

Senior Parole Officer Eric Brady, Medford.
Senior Parole Counselor Nicole Cade, Clayton.
Network Administrator Joseph Gogan, Hamilton.
Senior Parole Officer James Martine, Millville.
Senior Parole Office Kathleen Scola, Cherry Hill.
Senior Parole Officer Ismael Velez, Clayton.
Senior Parole Officer Troy Wilhelm, Medford.

State Parole Board Award for Excellence:

Senior Parole Counselor John Cooney, Howell.
Senior Parole Counselor Jessica Munyon, Vineland/
Secretarial Assistant Linda Robalik, Cookstown.
IPO Clerk Timothy Todd, Flemington.
Senior Parole Officer James Yu, Jackson.

State Parole Board Award for Supervisory Excellence:

Principal Parole Counselor Marilyn Montijo, Belleville.
Parole Sgt. Thomas Trovato, Mullica Hill.
Lead Project Programmer Dean Ivins, Ewing.

Steven A. Paparozzi Memorial Award

Senior Parole Officer Rachel Scipio, Middletown.

Kim R. Clark Memorial Award

Personnel Assistant Zobeida Concepcion, Trenton.

In addition, 14 SBP employees were cited for perfect attendance in 2015.